

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a digital communications network, a method comprising:

checking a multiplexed connection's bandwidth capacity to carry a call over a link;

overflowing the call onto a single non-multiplexed connection without sending the call onto the multiplexed connection, when the multiplexing connection's bandwidth is insufficient to carry the call; and

presenting the call to an ATM Q.2931 layer if the multiplexing connection's bandwidth is insufficient to carry the call, wherein overflowing the call includes adding the ~~[[a]]~~ single non-multiplexed connection over the link per call with the single non-multiplexed connection having a sufficient bandwidth for only the call; transmitting the call over the non-multiplexed connection; [and] tearing down the single non-multiplexed connection once the call is completed; and transferring the call from the non-multiplexed connection to the multiplexed connection if the multiplexing connection's bandwidth changes from insufficient to sufficient to carry the call.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the call over the multiplexed connection when the multiplexed connection's bandwidth is sufficient to carry the call.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 [[3]], wherein the multiplexed connection is a multiplexed Q.AAL2 signaling channel.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the non-multiplexed connection is a non-multiplexed Q.AAL2 signaling channel.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in a digital communication network, comprising:

means for checking a multiplexed connection's bandwidth capacity to carry a call over a link;

means for overflowing the call onto a single non-multiplexed connection without sending the call onto the multiplexed connection, when the multiplexing connection's bandwidth is insufficient to carry the call; and

means for presenting the call to an ATM Q.2931 layer if the multiplexing connection's bandwidth is insufficient to carry the call, wherein overflowing the call includes means for adding [a] the single non-multiplexed connection over the link per call with the single non-multiplexed connection having a sufficient bandwidth for only the call; means for transmitting the call over the non-multiplexed connection; [and] means for tearing down the single non-multiplexed connection once the call is completed; and means for and transferring the call from the non-multiplexed connection to the multiplexed connection if the multiplexing connection's bandwidth changes from insufficient to sufficient to carry the call.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising means for sending the call over the multiplexed connection when the multiplexed connection's bandwidth is sufficient to carry the call.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6 [[8]], wherein the multiplexed connection is a multiplexed Q.AAL2 signaling channel.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the non-multiplexed connection is a non-multiplexed Q.AAL2 signaling channel.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage device having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, said plurality of instructions when executed by a computer, cause said computer to perform the method of:

checking a multiplexed connection's bandwidth capacity to carry a call over a link;

overflowing the call onto a single non-multiplexed connection without sending the call onto the multiplexed connection, when the multiplexing connection's bandwidth is insufficient to carry the call; and

presenting the call to [[the]] an ATM Q.2931 layer if the multiplexing connection's bandwidth is insufficient to carry the call, wherein overflowing the call includes adding [a] the single non-multiplexed connection over the link per call with the single non-multiplexed connection having a sufficient bandwidth for only the call; transmitting the call over the non-multiplexed connection; [and]

tearing down the single non-multiplexed connection once the call is completed;
and transferring the call from the non-multiplexed connection to the multiplexed connection if the multiplexing connection's bandwidth changes from insufficient to sufficient to carry the call.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage device medium of claim 11 having stored thereon additional instructions, said plurality of instructions when executed by a computer, cause said computer to further perform the method of sending the call over the multiplexed connection when the multiplexed connection's bandwidth is sufficient to carry the call.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage device medium of claim 11 ~~[[13]]~~, wherein the multiplexed connection is a multiplexed Q.AAL2 signaling channel.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage device medium of claim 14, wherein the non-multiplexing connection is a non-multiplexed Q.AAL2 signaling channel.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A digital communication switch comprising:
a bus;
a processor coupled to the bus;

a storage device coupled to the bus, the storage device to store instructions to be executed by the processor;

a buffer to store voice data cells, wherein the processor is configured to monitor the available bandwidth of a multiplexed connection, receive a voice call, route the voice call according to the available bandwidth, and overflow the voice call onto a single non-multiplexed connection without sending the voice call onto the multiplexed connection when the available bandwidth of the multiplexed connection is insufficient to carry the voice call; and

presenting the voice call to an ATM Q.2931 layer if the multiplexing connection's bandwidth is insufficient to carry the voice call, wherein overflowing the voice call includes adding [a] the single non-multiplexed connection over the link per call with the single non-multiplexed connection having a sufficient bandwidth for only the call; transmitting the voice call over the non-multiplexed connection; [and] tearing down the single non-multiplexed connection once the voice call is completed; and transferring the call from the non-multiplexed connection to the multiplexed connection if the multiplexing connection's bandwidth changes from insufficient to sufficient to carry the call.

18. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 17, wherein the processor is configured to send the voice call over the multiplexed connection when the available bandwidth of the multiplexed connection is sufficient to carry the voice call.

19. (Original) The switch of claim 18, wherein the multiplexing connection is a multiplexed Q.AAL2 signaling channel.

20. (Original) The switch of claim 19, wherein the non-multiplexing connection is a non-multiplexed Q.AAL2 signaling channel.